



DOUGLAS COUNTY OUTDOORS

DOUGLAS COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

OUTDOOR REPORT

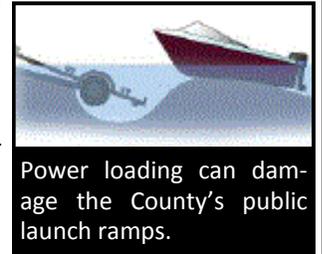
MAY 2015

FISHING

- The inland fishing opener is finally here! On May 2nd the lakes and rivers came alive with people looking to catch the big one. It is reported that fishing success has been very good.
- The docks at the Douglas County maintained boat launches (Lyman Lake, Minnesuing Lake, Mooney Dam– Lower Eau Clair Lake, North Flowage, and Gordon Dam) are out and ready for the season.



- People are reminded that power loading of boats when loading and unloading is prohibited at all County boat launches. Power loading can cause damage to the launch ramps that may not be visible from the surface of the water. “Power loading” is a term used to describe using the motor to load and unload the boat onto and off of the trailer. The County’s public launch ramps were not designed to sustain the forces generated by today’s larger and more powerful boats or the practice of power loading. Repairs are time consuming, frustrating for the public, and expensive. Propeller wash creates a significant force that can erode the lakebed and create a large hole at the end of the ramp. Eroded material is often deposited beyond the ramp to create a mound, which can result in a barrier for launching and loading. Boats and equipment can incur damage if the boat or lower unit runs aground on the mound or if the trailer becomes stuck in the hole.



Power loading can damage the County’s public launch ramps.

- **Fish Stocking at the Children’s Park Creek Pond**

The Solon Springs 6th grade class came out to Park Creek Pond Friday, May 1st to help prepare for the fishing opener. The Wisconsin DNR Brule Fish Hatchery delivered 700 brook trout to the pond. The children learned about the life history of the fish and then helped stock the trout into the pond. DNR fire control staff were also present to demonstrate their fire control equipment. Numerous children were catching these trout over the opener weekend.



COUNTY PARKS

Lucius Woods and Mooney Dam Campgrounds are scheduled to open on May 15th. The Gordon Dam County Campground is offering off-season camping until May 14th but many of the normal campground amenities are not provided during the off-season time. For more information about off-season camping see [Douglas County Campgrounds](#) or contact our office at 715-378-2219.

NATURE

- The sights and sounds of spring are abundant. The wet areas are filled with sounds of frogs, toads are trilling, and the mornings are coming alive with the birds singing. Bears are being sighted more often....time to be more vigilant with the garbage, pet food and bird feeders. Canada geese are starting to be seen swimming with their goslings, and snakes have been seen sunning themselves on the warm days. Cherry trees are in bloom and putting on quite a display right now with their white blossoms. Marsh marigolds (also known as cowslips) are putting on their own golden display in the wetlands. Wood anemone (spring beauties) are beginning to bloom on the forest floor. Bracken ferns and wild leeks are also coming up. The recent rain has helped to green things up...enough that lawns are starting to be mowed.



Marsh Marigolds



A beaver stops to pose along a roadside.

- The pleasant spring time weather is encouraging more people to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Fishing, turkey hunting, hiking, biking, and boating are just some of the popular activities going on right now. Ticks and mosquitoes are out so don't forget the repellent!

RECREATIONAL TRAILS

- The Douglas County Forestry Department announces that all Summer Recreation trails under its management will open for the season on Thursday, May 7th, 2015 at Noon. These recreational trails include all designated ATV/UTV trails as well as the designated Off-Highway Motorcycle trails located in the Town of Summit.
- As conditions change throughout the season, be sure to get the latest update on trail conditions by visiting www.douglascountywi.org/forestry, or by calling the Douglas County Trail Hotline 24 hours a day 7 days a week at (715) 378-4528.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HIKING

Join members of the North Country Trail Association's Brule-St. Croix Chapter for hikes on the North Country National Scenic Trail. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at KD's Restaurant in Solon Springs. See the attached flyer for the schedule.

For more information;

715-292-3484

www.meetup.com/ssebhikers

email: bsc@northcountrytrail.org

Facebook: NCTinWI

CHILDREN'S NATURE PLAYGROUP

A Childrens Nature Playgroup, sponsored by the Friends of the Bird Sanctuary will be gathering every 3rd Wednesday from May through September at the Bird Sanctuary Club House in Solon Springs. See the attached flyer for more information and the schedule of events.



Take a Walk on the North Country Trail

Meet 9 AM Saturdays at K D's Restaurant in Solon Springs

**Join members of the North Country Trail Association's Brule-St. Croix Chapter
for hikes on the North Country National Scenic Trail**

Spring Hikes

Saturday, May 9th - Brule Bog Boardwalk - spring flower and birding hike

Saturday, May 23rd - Memorial Day Weekend - Leo Creek

Saturday, June 6th - National Trails Day hikes

Saturday, June 20th - Douglas County Wildlife Area, Bird Rd. to Stuckey Rd.

Saturday, July 4th - Brule-St. Croix Portage - regional history hike

Fall Hikes

Saturday, August 22nd - Aden Creek

Saturday, September 5th - Labor Day Weekend - Brule Bog Boardwalk

Saturday, September 19th - Brule Valley Overlooks in the Brule River State Forest

Saturday, October 3rd - St. Croix National Scenic Riverway - fall color hike

Saturday, October 10th - Ahmeek Lake Moraine in the Bayfield County Forest - fall color hike

Saturday, October 17th - MacQuarrie Wetlands - waterfowl viewing hike



Your Adventure Starts Here

For more information

715-292-3484

www.meetup.com/sscbhikers

email: bsc@northcountrytrail.org

Facebook: NCTinWI





Children's Nature Playgroup

At the Bird Sanctuary Clubhouse

Every 3rd Wednesday May thru September 9 – 11 am

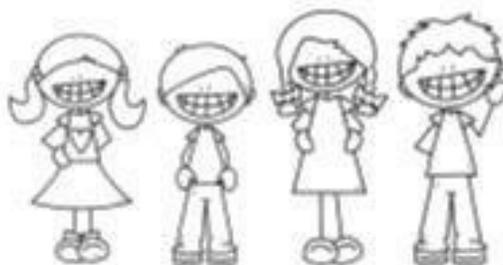
May 20 – Exploring the Bird Sanctuary. Hike to the sharptail grouse blind. Making our Summer Journals to note observations made while at home and in playgroup. Children will bring their Journals with questions they have about nature to each group time for an open discussion.

June 17th – Upside Down: Curious George, the creative nature explorer. Challenging the children to think how the natural world is all around us and we are very much part of it. Using Jack Johnson's song and lyrics "Upside Down" to demonstrate and get kids grooving! Introduce Scientific Method for older children.

July 15th – ICE! What could be more fun on a hot summer day? We are going to pretend it is winter and explore the properties of ice, how it melts, does it evaporate?

August 19th – Discovery Lab. Kids will create collections of things in nature and use our science tools and observations to learn.

September 16th – Seasons. Follow bears through all 4 seasons. Why do we have seasons? What season are we entering? All about black bears and why they are an important piece to our natural landscape.



Directions to the Clubhouse: On US Hwy 53 go south 3 miles from Solon to Cty Hwy M or north 3 miles from Gordon to Cty Hwy M (by Poodle Inn) turn west on Cty M, go 1/4 mile to Bird Sanctuary Road, turn north, go 1/4 mile to clubhouse (on the right beyond the split rail fence).

Call Becky 715-378-4518 for more information.

Friends of the Bird Sanctuary
P.O. Box 116, Gordon, Wisconsin 54838
www.fotbs.org

